

time that less should be said about farm boys wanting to "save their skins by not going to war?" Compare the number of farm boys who have gone to the front with that of certain other classes and they certainly make a good showing. There are not many young fellows on farms now to go. No better move could be made for the enemy than to take the last boy off each farm, not only would production be seriously decreased for this year but the farms would so deteriorate in the hands of old men, through lack of physical strength to do the work, that Canada would not recover for years to come. There are enough deserted farms now but in the event of the above taking place their number would be multiplied. Young farmers are not devoid of Patriotism nor yet of a spirit of adventure.

NOVA SCOTIAN.

Beginning Farming in New Ontario.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

One of the most important things to remember in locating a homestead is that there is a good amount of timber on some, for if one has timber he can make good wages in cutting and selling the same, thereby making it possible for him to support himself and family while making a home. It is advisable when possible to locate near the railroad, or on some navigable stream, for roads are slow in building and unless graded are practically useless, except in winter; while, if one is located on a good waterway, he can always get in supplies in summer and the ice makes a good road in winter.

A good clay loam is desirable, although for the most of the country (locally speaking) one has to make the soil, that is, the clay is covered by black muck and moss, and to make a good lasting soil has to be mixed with the clay by plowing and harrowing. This softens the clay and the mixture makes an ideal soil.

Some people are inclined to burn too deeply; thus destroying the vegetable deposits of ages. Burning the surface of the clay makes it necessary to do a lot of extra work to get the land back in shape to grow crops.

As the timber (usually pulp wood) has been taken off a piece of ground which one wishes to clear, a good plan is to cut and pile all brush and burn as soon as dry; then partially clear the ground by pulling all small stumps and picking up the rotten logs and burning them. It is advisable to sow grass seed just before a rain, as the seed gets beaten into the ground and the following year a fair crop of hay can be cut, besides keeping down the growth of shrubs and brush, which otherwise would soon cover the clearing. Also, the grass has a tendency to rot the roots of the large stumps, making them easier to pull.

If possible, it is best to pull all the stumps and plow the land, but for the poor man starting on a homestead it is hardly possible. He can, however, spade up enough ground to grow vegetables for himself and family and harrow the ground without plowing and get in a crop of grain and hay, thereby being able to keep a horse and cow, a few hens, and a pig. He is then ready to begin some real farming on a small scale, for it takes time to make a farm.

Most of the farms in the older-settled parts of Ontario have taken years to make them what they are, and it will take time, money and lots of hard work to make good productive farms in New Ontario. But for the pioneer who sticks, there is a good living to be made in this new country.

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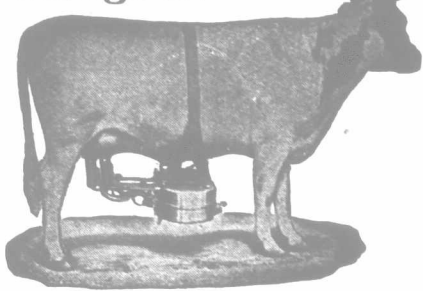
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